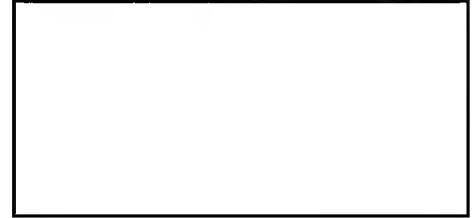


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Philippines: Suspicion is growing in the Philippines that President Marcos intends to engineer an extension to his tenure beyond present constitutional limitations.

Marcos, who won an unprecedented second term in the November elections, is constitutionally barred from a third term. Speculation is increasing that he will attempt to manipulate a constitutional convention set for June 1971 to sidestep the limitation on chief executives to two four-year terms. Marcos, who will be only 56 at the end of his second term, is already showing an intense interest in next November's election of delegates to the constitutional convention. He presumably will try to pack the convention. One device Marcos could push for would be a constitutional amendment limiting presidents to a single six-year term, with the proviso that the limitation would not apply to the president in office at the time the amendment was adopted.

Marcos' inclination to try to prolong his control is reportedly being encouraged by the ambitious Mrs. Marcos. In a move possibly tied in with his long-range intentions, Marcos announced on 31 December that he would turn his worldly possessions over to the Filipino people "as an example of self-denial and self-sacrifice."

The political opposition has ridiculed the President's announcement, as a considerable portion of his assets are held under Mrs. Marcos' name. The opposition Liberal Party, in view of its recent poor showing at the polls, will have a difficult time thwarting the President's personal ambition if he decides to perpetuate himself in office.

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